

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-3 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A displaying method of acquiring information related to a selected network device of a plurality of network devices, and displaying acquired information of the selected network device, said method comprising:

a first display step of acquiring a first information related to the selected network device via a network and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and

a second display step of acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second screen different from the initial screen after displaying the first information, a second information, which is additional and different from the first information, from the selected network device via the network and displaying the second information on the second screen.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A network device control apparatus for acquiring information related to a selected network device of a plurality of network devices, and displaying acquired information of the selected network device, comprising:

a first display unit for acquiring a first information related to the selected network device via a network and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and

a second display unit for acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second screen different from the initial screen after displaying the first information, a second information, which is additional and different from the first information, from the selected network device via the network and displaying the second information on the second screen.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for implementing an acquiring method of acquiring information related to a selected network device of a plurality of network devices, and a displaying method of displaying acquired information, the program comprising:

program code for a first display step of acquiring a first information related to the selected network device via a network and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and

program code for a second display step of acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second screen different from the initial screen after displaying the first information, a second information, which is additional and different from the first information, from the selected network device via the network and displaying the second information on the second screen.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A network device control method comprising:
an initial sheet information acquisition and display step of acquiring via a network and displaying initial sheet information on an initial screen of a device window, which is

a window allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis;

a separate sheet information list making step of making a list of separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired via the network and displayed in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step;

an acquisition sheet information decision step of deciding a sheet information list to acquire from separate sheet information lists made in said separate sheet information list making step;

a different sheet information acquisition and display step of, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring via the network and displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a second screen different from the initial screen opened in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step;

an all sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired;

a single sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding, when it is found in said all sheet information acquisition decision step that not all information has been acquired, whether all current acquisition of sheet information has ended based on a result of said acquisition sheet information decision step;

a sheet information list status change step of changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when it is decided in said single sheet information acquisition decision step that all current acquisition of sheet information has ended; and

a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information via the network when it is decided in said single sheet information acquisition step that not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A network device control apparatus comprising:

an initial sheet information acquisition and display unit for acquiring via a network and displaying initial sheet information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis;

a separate sheet information list making unit for making a list of separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired via the network and displayed by said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit;

an acquisition sheet information decision unit for deciding a sheet information list to acquire from separate sheet information lists made by said separate sheet information list making unit;

a different sheet acquisition and display unit for, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring via the network and displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a second screen different from the initial screen opened by said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit;

an all sheet information acquisition decision unit for deciding whether all sheet

information has been acquired;

a single sheet information acquisition decision unit for deciding, when it is found by said all sheet information acquisition decision unit that not all sheet information has been acquired, whether all current acquisition of sheet information has ended based on a result from said acquisition sheet information decision unit;

a sheet information list status change unit for changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when decided by said single sheet information acquisition decision unit that all current acquisition of sheet information has ended; and

a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring network device information via the network when it is decided by said single sheet information acquisition unit that not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for implementing a network device control method, the program comprising:

program code for an initial sheet information acquisition and display step of acquiring via a network and displaying initial sheet information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis;

program code for a separate sheet information list making step of making a list of separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired via the network and displayed in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step;

program code for an acquisition sheet information decision step of deciding a sheet information list to acquire from separate sheet information lists made in the separate sheet information list making step;

program code for a different sheet information acquisition and display step of, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring via the network and displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a second screen different from the initial screen opened in the initial sheet information acquisition and display step;

program code for an all sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired;

program code for a single sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding, when it is found in the all sheet information acquisition decision step that not all information has been acquired, whether acquisition of all current sheet information has ended based on a result of the acquisition sheet information decision step;

program code for a sheet information list status change step of changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when decided in the single sheet information acquisition decision step that all current acquisition of sheet information has ended; and

program code for a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information via the network when it is decided in the single sheet information acquisition step that not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended.

Claim 7 (previously amended): A network device control method according to claim 4, wherein said initial sheet information acquisition and display step comprises:

an initial sheet information specifying step of specifying initial sheet information;

a sheet information list making step of making a sheet information list from initial sheet information specified in the initial sheet information specifying step; and

an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information for the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step.

Claims 8-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously amended): A network device control method according to claim 4, wherein said initial separate sheet information acquisition and display step comprises:

a separate sheet information specifying step of specifying separate sheet information;

a sheet information list making step of making a sheet information list from separate sheet information specified in the separate sheet information specifying step; and

an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information of the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (previously amended): A network device control method according to claim 4, wherein said initial sheet information acquisition and display step comprises:

a separate sheet information specifying step of specifying separate sheet information;

a sheet information list making step of making a sheet information list from separate sheet information specified in the separate sheet information specifying step; and

an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information for the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step.

Claim 25 (previously amended): A network device control method according to claim 7, wherein the information acquisition step comprises:

a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information;

an instant display step of displaying a portion of the information beforehand, based on currently held sheet information, when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step;

a display all sheet information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet

information compulsory acquisition decision step;

a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information;

a network device holding decision step of deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being held;

a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly acquired in said network device information acquisition step when it is determined to hold information in cache in the network device holding decision step;

a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired network device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is decided a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision step;

a network device information display step of displaying on the device window, the cache value held in the cache value hold step;

a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step;

an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is decided that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step;

a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided

to perform updates in the update decision step;

a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set in the timer update set step; and

an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step.

Claims 26-56 (canceled)

Claim 57 (previously presented): A method of acquiring information of a selected network device of a plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, said method comprising:

a first display step of acquiring a first information of a selected network device via a network and of displaying the first information on a first area of a device window; and

a second display step of acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second information of the selected network device on a second area different from the first area after displaying the first information, the second information from the selected network device via the network and of displaying the second information on the second area of the device window,

wherein the second information is different from the first information.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A network device control apparatus for acquiring information of a selected network device of a plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, said apparatus comprising:

a first display unit for acquiring a first information of a selected network device via a network and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window; and

a second display unit for acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second information of the selected network device, the second information from the selected network device via the network and displaying the second information on a second screen different from the initial screen.

Claim 59 (previously presented): A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for acquiring information from a selected network device of a plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, the program comprising:

program code for a first display step of acquiring a first information of a selected network device via a network and of displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window; and

program code of a second display step of acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second information of the device window, the second information from the selected network device via the network and of displaying the second information on a second screen different from the initial screen.

Claim 60 (previously presented): A displaying method according to Claim 1, wherein said first display step includes forming a list of information required for display of the initial screen, acquiring listed information, and storing the acquired information in a memory.

Claim 61 (canceled)

Claim 62 (previously presented): A displaying method according to Claim 1, wherein said second display step includes forming a list of information required for display of the second screen, acquiring listed information, and storing the acquired information in a memory.

Claim 63 (canceled)

Claim 64 (previously presented): A displaying method according to Claim 1, further comprising a determination step of determining whether information is to be acquired from the selected network device or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device.

Claim 65 (previously presented): A displaying method according to Claim 64, wherein said first display step or said second display step includes acquiring information from the selected network device, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the selected network device, or acquiring information from the memory, if it is determined that

information is to be acquired from the memory.

Claim 66 (previously presented): A displaying method according to Claim 1, wherein said second display step is executed if a tab is clicked on a device window.

Claim 67 (previously presented): A displaying method according to Claim 1, wherein the initial screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol.

Claim 68 (previously presented): A displaying method according to Claim 1, wherein the second screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol.

Claim 69 (previously presented): A displaying method according to Claim 1, further comprising a search step of searching for network devices connected to a network and displaying a list of the network devices, wherein said first display step is executed when one of the network devices on the list is selected by a user.

Claims 70-73 (canceled)

Claim 74 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a determination unit for determining whether information is to be acquired from the selected network device or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device.

Claim 75 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 74, wherein said first display unit or said second display unit acquires information from the selected network device, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the selected network device, or acquires information from the memory, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the memory.

Claim 76 (canceled)

Claim 77 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the initial screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol.

Claim 78 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the second screen is a screen that displays status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol.

Claim 79 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a search unit for searching for network devices connected to a network; and
a display for displaying a list of the network devices,
wherein said first display unit executes acquisition of the first information
when one of the listed network devices is selected by a user.

Claims 80-83 (canceled)

Claim 84 (previously presented): A recording medium according to Claim 3, further comprising program code for a determination step of determining whether information is to be acquired from the selected network device or a memory storing information acquired from the selected network device.

Claim 85 (previously presented): A recording medium according to Claim 84,

wherein the first display step or the second display step includes acquiring information from the selected network device, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the selected network device, or acquiring information from the memory, if it is determined that information is to be acquired from the memory.

Claim 86 (canceled)

Claim 87 (previously presented): A recording medium according to Claim 3, wherein the initial screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol.

Claim 88 (previously presented): A recording medium according to Claim 3, wherein the second screen is a screen that displays a status of the selected network device, a screen that displays a list of jobs, a screen that displays a manufacturer, a product name, an installation location, a product version, or a toner cartridge model, or a screen that displays information about a network interface board or information about a network protocol.

Claim 89 (previously presented): A recording medium according to Claim 3, further comprising:

program code for a search step of searching for network devices connected to a network; and

program code for a display step of displaying a list of the network devices, wherein said first display step is executed when one of the listed network devices is selected by a user.